REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-7 and 9-14 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 10 and 11 being independent. Claim 13 was previously withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1 and 3 are amended herein. Claim 14 is newly added, and corresponds to original, cancelled, Claim 8. Support for the amendments to Claim 1 may be found, for example, at page 12, lines 23-26 and the Examples of the specification. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 3-7, 9, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,203,899 (Hirose et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,502,935 (Barcock et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's invention as recited in independent Claim 1, as amended, is directed to an ink-jet recording medium having at least a light-reflecting layer and a dye-fixing layer formed in this order on a base material in a multilayer structure. The light-reflecting layer contains two or more pigments different in chemical composition. The pigments include a pigment (A) having a highest liquid absorbency in the pigments and a pigment (B) having a lowest liquid absorbency in the pigments. The pigment (A) has an average particle size of not larger than 0.5 μm, and the pigment (B) has an average particle size ranging from 0.5 μm to 10 μm, provided that the average particle size of the pigment (A) is smaller than the average particle size of the pigment (B).

Applicant's invention as recited in independent Claim 10 is directed to an ink-jet recording medium having at least a light-reflecting layer and a dye-fixing layer formed in this order on a base material in a multilayer structure. The light-reflecting layer contains an aluminum pigment and barium sulfate. The average particle size of the aluminum pigment is smaller than the average particle size of the barium sulfate, and the surface of the dye-fixing layer has a 20°-glossiness of not less than 20%. The dye-fixing layer includes not less than 70 mass percent alumina hydrate particles.

Applicant's invention as recited in independent Claim 11 is directed to an ink-jet recording medium having at least a light-reflecting layer and a dye-reflecting layer formed in this order on a base material in a multilayer structure. The light-reflecting layer contains an aluminum pigment and a silica pigment. The average particle size of the aluminum pigment is smaller than the average particle size of the silica pigment, and the surface of the dye-fixing layer has a 20°-glossiness of not less than 20%.

Applicant submits that none of the cited references teach or suggest important features of the present invention.

Hirose et al. is directed to a printing medium including a liquid-absorbent base material, an ink-receiving layer provided on the base material, and comprising a pigment, a binder and a cationic substance, and a surface layer composed principally of cationic ultrafine particles as inorganic particles. Hirose et al. discloses many pigments, including silica and alumina, and discloses that the pigments may be used singly or in any combination. As the Examiner recognizes, however, Hirose et al. does not teach or suggest the claimed relationship

between the pigment particles and does not teach or suggest use of barium sulfate. To remedy these deficiencies, the Examiner cited to Barcock et al.

Barcock et al. is directed to an ink-jet recording material including pigment layers. Barcock et al. discloses that a lower layer of the recording material may contain barium sulfate as a major pigment and another pigment such as aluminum oxide or silica. The particle size of the barium sulfate is from 0.2 to 2.0 μm, preferably 0.7 to 1.2 μm, and the particle size for the aluminum oxide or silica is from 0.7 to 5 μm, preferably 1 to 3 μm for the aluminum oxide and 3 to 5 μm for the silica. In each of the Examples of Barcock et al., the barium sulfate particles (which correspond to Applicant's pigment (B)) have an average particle size of 0.7 to 1.2 μm, the aluminum oxide particles have an average size of 1.45 μm and the silica particles have an average particle size of 3 to 5 μm. That is, in each of the Examples, the pigment particles have a relationship that is opposite to the relationship recited in Applicant's independent claims. Applicant notes that the relationship between the pigments claimed in the subject application can help control the problem of the waviness of a recording medium after printing. Because the recording mediums produced in the Examples of Barcock et al. (which does not even discuss the problem of waviness) have the opposite relationship, the recording mediums would not have the same effect as Applicant's recording mediums in controlling waviness. Thus, Applicant submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine the references in the manner proposed by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine Hirose et al. and Barcock et al. in the manner proposed by the Examiner to produce a recording medium where the pigments comprise a

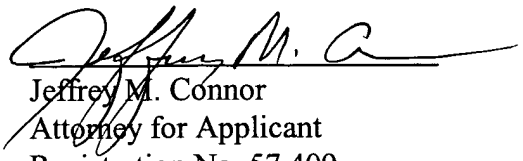
pigment (A) having a highest liquid absorbency in the pigments and a pigment (B) having a lowest liquid absorbency in the pigments, and wherein the pigment (A) has an average particle size of not larger than 0.5 μm, and the pigment (B) has an average particle size ranging from 0.5 μm to 10 μm, provided that the average particle size of the pigment (A) is smaller than the average particle size of the pigment (B), as recited in Claim 1, or to produce a recording medium where the light-reflecting layer contains an aluminum pigment and barium sulfate, wherein the average particle size of the aluminum pigment is smaller than the average particle size of the barium sulfate, as recited in Claim 10, or to produce a recording medium where the light-reflecting layer contains an aluminum pigment and a silica pigment, and wherein the average particle size of the aluminum pigment is smaller than the average particle size of the silica pigment, as recited in Claim 11. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Applicant submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1, 10 and 11. Dependent Claims 3-7, 9, 12 and 14 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in the independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, rejoinder of withdrawn Claim 13, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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